

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 1 and 17 have been amended and new claim 35 has been presented for examination. Additionally, withdrawn claims 10-16 and 22-30 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-9, 17-19 and 31-35 are pending.

In the outstanding Office action dated March 14, 2006, claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 19 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Forkner et al. (4,750,476). Additionally, claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 19 and 31-34 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Oneda et al. (4,979,498). Claims 6 and 7 were identified as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Notably, in rejecting the claims in view of the Oneda et al. patent, the Examiner stated that the recitation in the claims of an optical fiber extending substantially a length of the recited device "does not necessarily require that the optical fiber extends the 'entire length'." Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended to recite that the optical fiber extends substantially an entire length of an internal chamber of the recited elongated shaft to thereby clearly traverse the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 19 and 31-34 in view of the Oneda et al. patent.

With respect to the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 19 and 31-34 under § 102(b) in view of the Forkner et al. patent, it is respectfully submitted that it is beyond the teachings of the Forkner et al. patent to characterize nut 19 and cannula 23 as being part of the light transmitting fiber 41 disclosed in the Forkner et al. patent. Clearly, the Forkner et al. patent itself does not teach that the nut 19 and cannula 23 form part of the light transmitting fiber 41 as such items are identified and described separately from the light transmitting fiber 41. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 19 and 31-34 are not anticipated by the Forkner

et al. patent since there is no teaching of the elongated intracorporeal optical device including a ferrule directly attached to an optical fiber as is recited in each of the pending claims.

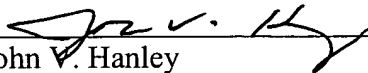
It is also respectfully submitted that new claim 35 is allowable over the cited art. Newly added claim 35 recites the subject matter of claim 6 rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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